

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 00767 190728Z

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

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R 190635Z JAN 74

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9313

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 767

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, JA

SUBJ: PRC REVIEWS TANAKA SOUTHEAST TRIP

SUMMARY. NCNA'S FIRST REPORT OF THE RESULTS OF TANAKA'S TOUR OF ASEAN COUNTRIES PUTS THE BEST POSSIBLE FACE ON THE TRIP. THIS PRESUMABLY REFLECTS THE PRC'S SATISFACTION AT SEEING THE SPECTER OF UNCONTROLLED JAPANESE ECONOMIC EXPANSIONISM RUNNING INTO RESISTANCE FROM THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES AS WELL AS ITS RELUCTANCE TO PUBLICIZE ANY EMBARRASSMENT TO PRIME MINISTER TANAKA. END SUMMARY.

1. NCNA (JANUARY 18) CARRIED PEKING'S FIRST REPORT ON JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER TANAKA'S TRIP TO THE ASEAN COUNTRIES. ALTHOUGH CHINESE MEDIA HAD MENTIONED HIS
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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 HONG K 00767 190728Z

DEPARTURE, IT DID NOT CARRY COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY ACCOUNTS

SIMILAR TO THE COVERAGE OF TANAKA'S EUROPEAN TOUR LAST FALL.

2. STARTING ON THE UPBEAT, NCNA NOTED TANAKA'S SUPPORT OF--AND BY IMPLICATION PRC APPROVAL OF--ASEAN AND THE EFFORTS BY THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES FOR REALIZING THE NEUTRALIZATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIA. IT ALSO REPORTED THE PRIME MINISTER'S COMMENT IN SINGAPORE THAT THE SOVIET SPONSORED ASIAN COLLECTIVE SECURITY SYSTEM WAS "NOT YET THE ORDER OF THE DAY." NCNA, QUOTING MAINICHI SHIMBUN, SAID THAT THE PURPOSE OF TANAKA'S TOUR WAS "RESOURCES DIPLOMACY" AND ASSURING JAPAN OF A LONG-TERM AND STABLE SUPPLY OF RESOURCES AND IMPLIED HE HAD HAD SOME SUCCESS BY NOTING THAT JAPAN WOULD CONTINUE TO ENLARGE ITS CAPITAL INVESTMENTS AND LOANS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.

3. TURNING RATHER GINGERLY TO THE ANTI-JAPANESE DEMONSTRATIONS WHICH GREETED THE JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER, NCNA, AGAIN QUOTING JAPANESE NEWSPAPERS, REPORTED THAT THE DEMONSTRATIONS HAD STEMMED FROM CONCERN THAT JAPANESE ECONOMIC EXPANSION COULD LEAD TO CONTROL OF LOCAL ECONOMICS AND UNDERMINE THEIR ECONOMIC GROWTH. IT NOTED THAT THE ANTI-TANAKA PROTESTS WERE "STRONG" AND THAT THE JAPANESE EMBASSY IN JAKARTA WAS ATTACKED, BUT AVOIDED OTHER LURID DETAILS SUCH AS THE DEATHS AND LOOTING IN INDONESIA. IN CONCLUSION, NCNA QUOTES FOREIGN MINISTER OHIRA AND OTHERS TO SUGGEST THAT THE JAPANESE HAVE LEARNED THE APPROPRIATE LESSON FROM THE DEMONSTRATIONS AND WILL ATTEMPT TO RECTIFY PAST MISTAKES.

4. COMMENT. THE PAUCITY OF REPORTS ON TANAKA'S SOUTHEAST ASIAN TRIP MAY RELATE TO SOME CAUTION IN PEKING OVER HOW TO ANALYZE ITS RESULTS. ON THE WHOLE, WE SUSPECT THAT THE CHINESE WERE PLEASED WITH THE OUTCOME OF THE TANAKA TRIP. IN THE PAST, THEY HAD OFTEN VOICED THEIR CONCERN THAT JAPAN MIGHT ONE DAY TAKE OVER SOUTHEAST ASIA BY MEANS OF ECONOMIC EXPANSIONS, THE ANTI-JAPANESE SENTIMENT ENCOUNTERED BY TANAKA DEMONSTRATED THAT THE SOUTHEAST ASIANS THEMSELVES ARE EQUALLY CONCERNED WITH THIS POSSIBILITY AND INTEND TO COUNTER IT THEMSELVES. THE PRC THUS HAS THE LUXURY OF A MAJOR WORRY APPARENTLY
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PAGE 03 HONG K 00767 190728Z

TAKING CARE OF ITSELF.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC GROWTH, PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS, FOREIGN INVESTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974HONGK00767
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740130/aaaabbtel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUL 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <26 DEC 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRC REVIEWS TANAKA SOUTHEAST TRIP SUMMARY. NCNA'S FIRST REPORT OF THE RESULTS OF TANAKA'S
TAGS: PFOR, CH, JA, XC, (TANAKA, KAKUEI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005